

**BOROUGH OF HOMESTEAD  
221 EAST 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
HOMESTEAD, PA 15120**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
14 September 2017  
6:00 P.M.**

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order.

The pledge of allegiance was led by the Mayor.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS RESPONDED TO ROLL CALL**

ROLL CALL:           Rev. Turner – Present  
                          Rev. Benton – Present  
                          Mrs. Fowler – Present  
                          Ms. Mariner – Present  
                          Ms. Burwell – Present  
                          Mr. Borcik – Present  
                          Mr. Cunningham – Present  
                          Mayor Esper – Present  
                          Police Chief DeSimone – Present  
                          Engineer Gilliland – Present  
                          Solicitor Bernie Schneider – Present  
                          Building Inspector Dan Hankins – Present  
                          Borough Manager Matt Staniszewski – Present

**REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA**

- None

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

- None

**MOTIONS**

- M-1** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Turner, to pay the bills as per the bill list in the amount of \$212,809.16. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Borcik and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Ms. Mariner abstained, no reason provided. Rev. Benton and Ms. Burwell voted no. Motion carried 4 – 2.
- M-2** Motion was made by Mrs. Fowler, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to approve the minutes of the August 10th, 2017 meeting of Homestead Borough Council. Upon voice vote, motion carried 7 – 0.

- M-3** Motion was made by Ms. Mariner, Seconded by Mr. Borcik, to authorize Keystone Collections to file liens for tax year 2014 with court cost not to exceed of \$15,840 as submitted by Councilman Borcik and reviewed by Council with parameters greater and less than \$100 for taxes owed accordingly, charge 01/489-000. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-4** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to approve the lowest bid proposal from Lawson Excavating in the amount of \$25,250 for the 2017 Catch Basin Repair at six locations as recommended by the Borough Engineer. Upon roll call vote, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Rev. Turner and Mrs. Fowler abstained, no reason provided. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- M-5** Motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to authorize the Solicitor to send a letter in response to Becoate properties, LLC regarding xServe Solutions, LLC. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-6** Motion was made by Rev. Benton, Seconded by Ms. Burwell, to Hire Donna Comer as a Crossing Guard at a rate of \$12.67 per hour per recommendation by the Police Chief pending obtaining all clearances. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-7** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to Hire Debra Johnson as an Alternate Crossing Guard at a rate of \$12.67 per hour per recommendation by the Police Chief pending obtaining all clearances. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Motion carried 7 – 0.
- M-8** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to appoint Matt Staniszewski as Delegate/Resolutions Committee member and Rev. Louise Benton as Alternate Delegate/Resolutions Committee member to the Pennsylvania Municipal League. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6 – 0. Rev. Benton abstained because she is being appointed.
- M-9** Motion was made by Ms. Mariner, Seconded by Ms. Burwell, to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise for an administrative position in local publications, pa municipal league and LGA job forums and other appropriate means, not to exceed \$500. Upon roll call vote, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr.

Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Rev. Turner abstained, no reason provided. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**M-10** Motion was made by Rev. Benton, Seconded by Ms. Mariner, to adopt the following Concurring Resolutions:

- i. CONCURRING RESOLUTION 2017-24: CDBG application for \$96,750 (replacing gas lights with LED along the Bike Trail)
- ii. CONCURRING RESOLUTION 2017-25: CDBG application for \$85,000 (Street reconstruction of McClure from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> and West 9<sup>th</sup> from West to Hays)
- iii. CONCURRING RESOLUTION 2017-26: CDBG application for \$20,000 (Wayfinding Signage for Waterfront and CBD)
- iv. CONCURRING RESOLUTION 2017-27: CDBG application for \$30,000 (Catch Basin replacement, McClure & 7<sup>th</sup>, McClure and 13<sup>th</sup>, Hays & W Oak, Mifflin & East Plum)

Upon voice vote, motion carried 7 – 0.

**M-11** Motion was made by Mrs. Fowler, Seconded by Rev. Turner, to approve the agreement revision with the Turtle Creek Valley COG for sewage billing services. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Ms. Burwell abstained, no reason provided. Motion carried 6 – 0

**M-12** Motion was made by Rev. Benton, Seconded by Ms. Burwell, to change the Monday Caucus Meeting time to 5:00PM and authorize the Borough Business Manager to advertise accordingly. Mayor Esper questioned if people who work can make it to the meeting. Mr. Borcik stated he makes it home. Following further discussion, upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Ms. Mariner abstained, no reason provided. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**M-13** Motion was made by Ms. Burwell, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to adopt ORDINANCE 2017-06: Alarm Permit Amendments. Upon roll call vote, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, Rev. Benton and Mr. Cunningham voted yes. Rev. Turner abstained, no reason provided. Motion carried 6 – 0.

**M-14** During the Manager's report, Mr. Borcik asked for the floor and a motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to Empower our (*Homestead's*) solicitor to send a 30 day notice to Turnkey to cease and desist on all collections either by verbal or written with the Borough of Homestead, return all information on accounts, provide a thorough accounting and final account with outstanding balances and a summary of monies collected. Upon roll call vote, Rev. Turner,

Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, and Rev. Benton voted yes. Mr. Cunningham voted no. Motion carried 6 – 1.

**M-15** During the Manager's report, Mr. Borcik asked for the floor and a motion was made by Mr. Borcik, Seconded by Rev. Benton, to Hire Keystone Municipal Collections as our delinquent collector of sewage accounts, rental license fees and business privilege tax at an amount of 10% plus cost to the Borough of Homestead. During the discussion, it was clarified that the 10% would be added to the fees and 100% be paid by the delinquent account holder. Upon roll call vote, Mrs. Fowler, Ms. Mariner, Mr. Borcik, Ms. Burwell, and Rev. Benton voted yes. Rev. Turner and Mr. Cunningham voted no. Motion carried 5 – 2.

### **PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Mr. Cunningham discussed stormwater management and also announced the Goats would be coming to the Waterfront for vegetation removal along the Riverbank in October citing this first as an "experiment."

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

No report

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Gilliland gave his report. A copy was submitted to Council. Mr. Burrell commended the work at Sullivan Playground.

### **MAYOR ESPER**

Mayor Esper announced she was pleased with the commendation for the late Mr. Campbell. The Mayor also reminded individuals about opportunities for flags for those who served.

Mayor Esper asked that the three boroughs discuss having a maintenance crew go to the cemetery and cut once a month. Mr. Cunningham stated they did discuss it and it is private property. The Mayor replied "just do it" and suggested getting volunteers to "just do it." The Mayor stated that it is respect for the dead and asked if a committee couldn't be put together. The Mayor then stated "let them sue us" as it is out of respect for Veterans.

Mayor Esper announced additional events taking place at Town Center.

### **CHIEF OF POLICE**

The Chief gave his report. A copy was submitted to Council.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

No report provided.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mr. Hankins gave his report. A copy was submitted to Council. Ms. Burrell expressed concern of debris on West 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Burrell also questioned about catch basins at Oak and Hayes.

### **CIVIL SERVICE**

Mr. Schulte stated that two weeks ago he received a call from Ms. Burrell and there is a workshop available by Bill Gable at no cost.

Mr. Schulte asked at the status of hiring as there are 3 part-timers on the list.

### **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

During the Manager's report, Mr. Borcik asked for the floor to make two motions as cited above (M-14 and M-15). Mr. Staniszewski gave his report. A copy was submitted to Council.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew D. Staniszewski, MBA  
*Borough Business Manager/Secretary*  
*Chief of Administration*